

REMARKS

This application is the National Stage of Patent Cooperation Treaty Patent Application No. PCT/US03/00331 and claims priority to United States Patent Application 10/123,120 filed April 15, 2002 now issued as United States Patent No. 6,656,287 on December 2, 2003, and claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/403,594, filed August 13, 2002.

The applicant upon compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §371(c) and to the extent that the applicant has filed this United States National Stage application earlier than 30 months from the earliest filed application on which priority has been claimed above, specifically makes a request under 35 U.S.C. § 371(f) for early processing.

For the examiner's convenience, a copy of the specification and drawings as filed with the International PCT Patent Application and a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report are enclosed with this United States National Stage Application.

As can be understood from these documents, claims 1-147 did not lack unity of invention and each of claims 1-147 were accorded a completely favorable status in the International Preliminary Examination Report. As such, each of claims 1-147 satisfy the criteria of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) as to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability and the applicant has paid the basic national fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.492(a)(4). Having met the criteria of 37 C.F.R. §1.492(a)(4) and paid the basic national fee thereunder, the applicant requests that each of claims 1-147 be examined in a single group and that the examination of this application be taken up out of order.

The applicant requests entry of the amendment to the specification set out above to include a priority statement as the first paragraph in description portion of the specifications in accordance with the rules.

CONCLUSION

The applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment to amend the specification of this United States National Stage application to include claim of priority to and the benefit of earlier filed applications. The applicant makes a request under 35 U.S.C. § 371(f) for early processing, and having met the criteria of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) as to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability and having paid the basic national fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.492(a)(4) makes a request that the examination of this application be taken up out of order. The applicant further requests that each of claims 1-147 not lacking unity of invention be examined as a single group.

Dated this 15 day of October, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,

CR MILES, P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Miles", is written over a horizontal line.

Craig R. Miles

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